

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 13 has been cancelled.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-11.

The rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maesaka et al. (Maesaka), U.S. Patent No. 6,596,418, in view of Kubota et al. (Kubota), U.S. Publication No. 2002/0058159, has been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte  
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: January 4, 2006

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--